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Hydro-electric projects: The poor performance in the construction of the great hydro-electric projects (Stalingrad and Kuibyshev dams) and in industry in general is treated in the editorials of 16 and 19 June, both blame the slackness on the familiar inadequate mass political work among the workers, that is insufficient prodding. The construction of the projects is said to be hampered by: (a) failure of the supplier plants to fill their orders on time; (b) slow delivery of available supplies; and (c) unsatisfactory work of the designing and blueprint offices. PRAVDA inveighs against the indifferent attitude of the local building materials industry of the Stalingrad, Kuibyshev and "certain other" oblasts toward increasing production and the failure of the Party and Soviet organs of those oblasts to do anything about it. The editorial also lists specific instances of "defective" work which "must be eliminated at once."

Stalingrad Shipbuilding Yards	-- behindhand in assembling pumping dredgers for the Kuibyshev project;
Kiev Krasny Excavator Plant	-- behind schedule in production of multi-scoop excavators for the Volga-Don-Stroy;
Voronezh and Kovrovsk Excavator Plants	-- behindhand in production of spare
Tashkent Cable Works	-- 2 months behind schedule in shipment of excavator cables for the Volga-Don-Stroy;
Moscow Kauchuk Factory	-- behind schedules in deliveries of steam hawsers.

The USSR and Ukrainian ministries of building materials are taken to account for the slow delivery of bricks and the railway and river transport workers are criticized for unnecessary delays in the delivery of "important freights."

The slow progress on the hydro-electric projects, particularly the Stalingrad Dam, is also the object of attention in STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (29 and 30 June) which is even more critical than PRAVDA. According to that regional paper, the main work of the project, concrete pouring, has all but come to a standstill and the living conditions of the workers are, for the first time, mentioned as one of the reasons. Among the other reasons is the familiar "insufficient attention" to propaganda and mass-political work among the workers:

There are still cases where whole work sectors at the power plant and the canal sites do not fulfill their tasks. (29 June)

The May plan for concrete work ... was not fulfilled ... the June plan also broke down ... the daily schedules for laying of concrete are not fulfilled. (30 June)

Little attention is paid to the living conditions of the workers: communal feeding and trade services are not satisfactorily organized at Volga-Don. (29 June)

The daily schedules are systematically infringed, and insufficient attention is paid to better employment of equipment. (29 June)

The Party organs seem to underestimate the value of political agitation and do not pay sufficient attention to the work of agitators. (29 June)

A "fundamental improvement" in the organization of construction work is demanded by PRAVDA on 19 June with the reminder that the basic requirements of an efficient industry are high construction quality and low production costs, neither of which is apparent in the work of a number of building organizations. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that other projects, dependent on those building organizations, had to slow down production or discontinue operations:

Several building organizations of the USSR Ministry of Heavy Industrial Construction are not fulfilling their plans satisfactorily. Due to their fault, a number of projects in the metallurgical industry are not operating. (19 June)

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Management: "Effective leadership" is taken up in the editorial of 26 June, although red tape and inefficient leadership are actually discussed. The paper castigates officials "who believe that leadership is merely a question of signing papers," and points to the Crimean and Vladimir oblasts. Crimean oblast organizations are charged with ineptitude in adopting the crop rotation system for their collective farms. The poor results they obtained are attributed to their un-Bolshevik approach rather than to any possible defects in the system itself:

If the Crimean oblast party committee ... had kept to the Bolshevik rules of leadership ... they would not have obtained such a result.

In the Vladimir oblast, however, the situation is different and apparently more serious, and the oblast officials are accused, in so many words, of reluctance to encourage mechanization of labor:

There are serious shortcomings in the organization of production; much of the workers' time is wasted, and the machines frequently stand idle. Modern techniques, up-to-date technology and the mechanization of various processes are not fully exploited.

Discussing ways to improve the "leadership in economic affairs," particularly in the Ministries of forestry, construction of heavy industry, and machine-building enterprises, PRAVDA (23 June) makes it sufficiently clear why those ministries, or rather their leadership, should be improved:

Insufficient attention is paid here to the correct organization of work and mechanization of labor. There are also production chiefs who, for fear of overburdening themselves, obtain reduced plans thus causing damage to the interests of the State.

Overexpenditure (pereraskhod) and lack of thrift in the national economy in general are dealt with by PRAVDA on 27 June. The failure to list specific instances of the "infringement of technological processes" which resulted in production losses suggests that the practice is by no means confined to a small area, although the Krasnoye Sormovo works (Gorki) and "some Belorussian building organizations" are mentioned as the chief culprits. This practice, moreover, is not attributed to honest mistakes but to "incorrect returns of stocks and materials held" and "applications for excessive supplies":

There are still some managers of enterprises who do not pay attention to economy and thrift, make incorrect returns of stock and materials held, submit excessive applications for supplies, allow the listing of unfinished work as finished.

A similar situation is said to have been revealed in some Belorussian building organizations, particularly in the construction of enterprises for meat and dairy, food, and light industries. The official attitude toward such practice is stressed by the editorial in its familiar reference to "anti-State" activity: "Such manifestations of anti-State practices should be nipped in the bud." (podobnye proyavleniya anti-gosudarstvennoy praktiki neobkhodimo prestat' reshitelno obrazom.)

Distribution of Consumer Goods: The cause of the much-neglected Soviet consumer is taken up by the editorial of 28 June which complains that the chronic inefficiency of the retail trade network is further aggravated by the faulty distribution of consumer goods. Shipments of goods, says the paper, are not only unduly delayed in transit but when they do reach their destination they are found to be inadequate and unwanted by

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the customers. The Trade Ministry and the All-Union Consumers Association (Tsentrsoyuz)* are urged to "give up the practice of a mechanical distribution and shipment of goods without taking into account the population's demands." The paper quotes the complaint of the Moscow central department store (univermag) that boots and shoes received from the Kirov footwear factory were below standard. Among other instances of "indifference" to the customers' demands are:

- Rostov oblast -- the stores are well stocked with goods but not enough of them are sufficiently in demand.
- Kashka-Darya oblast, -- Nearly a million rubles worth of unsalable goods are lying in stock because there is no demand for them.
- Bashkir ASSR -- The wood and chemical products industries (glav-les-sbyt and glav-khim-sbyt) are constantly paying fines for failing to deliver consumer goods on time.

PRAVDA declares that the people "should be served better." Salesmen, about the lowest stratum of the Soviet social structure, are elevated to a more dignified station in life and referred to, in Stalin's words, as "the conductors of our revolutionary, Bolshevik cause." As is usual in cases of abuse of the consumers (except where the interests of the State are also involved), the editorial criticism is comparatively mild, and there is no mention of any punishment or even disciplinary action on the part of the authorities. PRAVDA's only conclusion is that the workers of the retail trade net-work should be "striving to fulfill and overfulfill the trade-exchange plans ... and reduce costs."

Party Activities: Serious shortcomings in Party work are said to have been revealed at recent conferences in a number of provinces, regions and republics (29 June), and "many cases" are noted where the lower Party organizations "have ceased to pay attention to the oblast Party committee." The weakening relations between the Party and the broad masses, which are ascribed to bureaucratic methods and red tape, are particularly censured:

We still have Party workers who are carried away with bureaucratic methods and a lot of paper work, paying no attention to the strengthening of the live links between the Party organizations and the broad masses of the working people.

The editorial accordingly urges that "less time should be spent on meetings, the compilation of all kinds of statistics and detailed notes" and more on organizational and political work among the masses. Party functionaries are also strongly advised not to be critical of their subordinates, the young Party workers, and are urged to lend them a helping hand instead:

There are still some Party functionaries ... who prefer to give effect to "leadership" by means of orders and instructions. Instead of advising and helping the young workers, they often resort to shouting and censure.

In the Kazakh SSR there are evidences of "most unsatisfactory" work, "non-government" attitude and nepotism according to KAZAKHSTANSKAY PRAVDA (15 and 30 June). An article by Omarov, secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party (19 June), places particular emphasis on South Kazakhstan. The "hushing up of shortcomings" in the work of Party

*The Tsentrsoyuz is the central administrative body of the all-Union cooperative system, and has the same standing as a Ministry of the USSR.

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officials is also alluded to in the editorial of 15 June, but the point is not amplified beyond the mere statement that such practice seriously handicaps the selection of qualified cadres. The editorial is critical of the selection of cadres:

It was noted at the South Kazakhstan oblast Party conference that the head of the oblast industrial Transport Department of the oblast Party committee, (Baydalimov), promoted Communists who had committed an offense to executive positions. Such happenings take place also in the enlightenment branch of the Alma Ata department of national education.

(There is no explanation of the reference to Communists who had committed offenses. In most cases an offense is sufficient to terminate a membership in the Party and a reinstated Communist usually starts with a clean slate.)

Agriculture: Regional editorial complaints of shortcomings in agriculture are more vociferous, as often happens during the harvesting season, but the radio output on agriculture is a great deal more voluminous than usual. Speaking for the Ukraine as a whole, the RADYANSKA UKRAINA (27 June) reminds the "leading organs" of the Party organizations that they are employing "incorrect methods of leadership" since they "limit their control activity solely to simple registration of shortcomings and failures." The Voroshilovgrad oblast Party Committee, for example, "considers that having taken a decision its work has ended and from that time does not care about its decision."

Inadequate preparations for the harvesting and the poor state of mechanization of agriculture are stressed by RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 26 June; it points to the Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk and Kamenets-Podolsk oblasts as the worst of the lot. The variety of the shortcomings listed in the three oblasts, the alarm expressed over the gravity of the situation and the appeal to the agricultural workers rather than to the local Party organs to improve the situation are indicative of the mass apathy which the local Party and Soviet organizations are facing:

Serious alarm is felt over the state of preparations in the kolkhozes and machine-tractor stations of Kuibyshevsky, Rozivsky, Veselivsky and Velikobelozersky rayons of Zaporozhye oblast.

Only 136 harvesting combines ... out of 900 specified by the plan were equipped for the third grain clearing.

Twenty-three machine-tractor stations in Dnepropetrovsk oblast have not completed harvesting-combine repairs.

The majority of machine-tractor stations in the Kamenets-Podolsk oblast have not completed repairs of complex threshing machines, motors and steam engines.

The plenary session of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party (19 June) lists six oblasts which fell short of their agricultural targets: Zhitomir and Ternopol, underfulfillment of the spring sowing plan; Dragobych and Volhynia underfulfillment of the flax and hemp sowing plans; Poltava, Kirovograd and Kamenets-Podolsk, failure to fulfill the early fallow-plowing plan. The Committee also names six oblasts where crop maintenance is far from adequate: Stanislav Lvov, and Kirovograd (sugar beet), Nikolayev (cotton), Rovno and Sumy (kok-sagyz).

Haymaking and stock-raising are cited as the weakest spots in Kazakh agriculture, and the KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA of 30 June complains that despite the "most unsatisfactory" care of the stock in the past winter, the South Kazakhstan authorities "are repeating the same mistakes this year." Haymaking in the Taldy-Kurgan and Kzyl-Orda oblasts is also said to be proceeding most unsatisfactorily.

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Party secretary Omarov says that the North Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan and Guriev oblasts are not much better than their southern neighbor, and that their fodder preparation was a failure. The Kzyl-Orda, Taldy-Kurgan, Alma Ata and Dzhambul oblasts are referred to as "especially backward," and severe losses due to negligence are reported in other oblasts:

This negligence resulted in a severe loss to the Dzhambul, Alma Ata and South Kazakhstan oblasts which suffered a big decrease in stock in the winter of 1950 to 1951 ... the Alma Ata oblast occupies the last place in the haymaking campaign.

One of the reasons given by Omarov for the unsuccessful fodder campaign is the "non-government" attitude of the machine-tractor station directors who "endeavor to cast off the responsibility delegated to them" in this campaign. Another one is the familiar "formalistic attitude" adopted by the Communist Party officials toward socialist competition and mass-political work.

Rostov and Stalingrad are also high on the list of the slow agricultural areas, and there are complaints of (a) unqualified machine-tractor personnel, (b) neglect of agricultural equipment, (c) unnecessary harvesting delays, (d) weak Party leadership and (e) poor agitation work among agricultural workers. A Rostov MOLOT article says that all these shortcomings are made worse by the lack of adequate railroad facilities for grain hauling:

... it was also revealed that a large percentage of those railroad cars (earmarked for grain delivery) were beyond local repair and that nothing had been done to remedy the situation. (23 June)

Poor utilization of equipment and draft animals is charged by the STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (15 June), but the accusation is directed to the inefficiency of the workers:

A number of kolkhozes in the Voroshilovsky, Logovsky, Uryupovsky and other rayons have organized their hay harvest badly: one horse-drawn mower works over only 1½ hectares per working day, and one tractor-drawn mower works over 10 to 15 hectares.

Below is a partial list of the shortcomings pointed out by the Rostov MOLOT and STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA:

In a number of rayons the training of combine cadres has been neglected ... at the same time many combine operators are employed in other jobs. MOLOT, 15 June

A number of machine-tractor stations have not yet begun haymowing and ensilage operations ... in the Perelazovskaya, Pobedskaya, Zadonskaya and Kachalinskaya a machine-tractor stations hay-mowing machines are lying idle. STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 15 June

It is unfortunate that in many cases ... the railroad cars earmarked for grain transportation have been sent to Novorossiysk to be loaded with concrete! Many other shortcomings exist. MOLOT, 23 June

In some machine-tractor stations the repair of machinery was so poor that work stoppages are very frequent. MOLOT, 28 June

Shortcomings were recently noted in the work of the Medvedyevsky rayon ... unsatisfactory work has also been noted in several other rayons. STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 26 June

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In a scathing rebuke to kolkhoz loafers, the VINNITSKA PRAVDA editorial (Vinnitsa, 29 June) reminds those farmers that official retaliation may be in order. Failure to take active part in production is the euphemism used for loafing and absenteeism, and expulsion from the kolkhoz and loss of "artel rights" may imply a trip to a "corrective" labor camp. The kolkhozniks are also reminded of the "minimum" of labor days for every grade of workers, as set up by the State and the Party, and advised that going below that minimum may spell danger:

The share of each male and female kolkhoz worker in the kolkhoz production is expressed in the number of labor days worked A kolkhoz worker who failed during the year to fulfill the prescribed minimum is considered to be expelled from the kolkhoz, and loses his rights in the artel, including the right to the individual plot of farmstead land.

Among the other oblasts admitting various degrees of agricultural shortcomings are: Odessa, Orel, Kirovograd, Dnepropetrovsk, Voroshilovgrad, Poltava, Dragobych, Kherson, Nikolayev, Saratov, Kursk, Kishinev (Moldavian SSR), Baku (Azerbaijan SSR), Erevan (Armenian SSR) and Tbilisi (Georgian SSR).

Industry and Shipping: Broadcast material on industry, mining and shipping is fragmentary and the only subjects discussed are slow and faulty housing construction in the Rostov and Odessa oblasts, construction of ferrous metal enterprises in the Dniepr and Donbas areas and the continued poor performance of the Caspian oil tanker fleet. According to the Rostov MOLOT (22 June), housing construction in the oblast is bad from the blueprints to the finished product. The building offices are said to "fail to stick to their blueprints," and the houses declared ready for occupancy are unfit to live in. Besides, the entire housing construction plan is far behind schedule in a number of places:

In Novoshakhtinsk during the past five months only 18 percent of the annual repair plan for houses has been fulfilled. The situation in Aksaysk is similar: here the capital repair of buildings has in fact not yet begun. In Taganrog town ... the annual plan for capital repair has been fulfilled by only 29.7 percent during the past five months.

The Odessa BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA belittles the fact that "there are only a few examples of well-organized labor" in the building trade, and housing construction has practically stopped. Lack of mechanization of labor is given as one of the reasons:

Manual labor prevails at many building sites During the first half of the year only 600 square meters of living space were completed instead of the 15,365 meters as planned.

The failure of the construction enterprises to stick to the living space construction plan is also deplored by the RYANSKA UKRAINA (28 June) which notes the "especially intolerable" lag in the work of some building trusts." Reference is made to the Dzerzhinsk-bud building trust which was supposed to build 7,000 square meters of floor space in the first half of the year, but "in reality completed less than half of the planned space on June first." The same "intolerable lag," says the paper, applies to some building trusts engaged in large-scale construction of ferrous-metal industry enterprises in the Dniepr and Donets Basin areas and in the Dnepropetrovsk oblast.

The Odessa MORYAK (Seaman), in Morse to ships at sea, 27 June speaks of "certain grave shortcomings" admitted in a letter to Stalin by the Caspian seamen, and says that "there are still serious production delays and ballast runs (ballastnie pobegi) ..." which place the Caspian oil tanker fleet in a position of debtor to the State. Besides, concludes the editorial, the first quarterly plan of this year for the transportation of oil products has not been fulfilled. In their letter to Stalin (Home Service, 24 June) the seamen said that the reason for the fleet's poor performance, in addition to the "numerous ballast runs," is that "ships leave the repair yards at the wrong times."

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The only reference to mining is contained in a MOLOT editorial (16 June) which blames the "formalistic attitude" of the local Party organizations for the production slow-down at the Bokov and (Lengerov) coal trusts in the Rostov oblast:

State plans are not being fulfilled by tens of exploitative sections ... in some mines transport machinery often stands idle and labor efficiency is very low. It is impossible to tolerate such conditions.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

Medicine: Writing in IZVESTIA, (28 June) Anichkov, president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, lists some of the advances made by Soviet medical sciences in the sphere of prophylactic and preventive medicine, without any reference to the progress of medical science abroad:

Various forms of tuberculosis have now become curable.

Cholera and the plague are now a thing of the past.

The malaria incidence rate has been greatly reduced.

The problem of cancer and malignant tumor is being tackled in a complex fashion by various institutes of the Academy.

The Tuberculosis Institute has worked out a method of curing tuberculosis by Soviet-produced streptomycin.

Apparatuses have been constructed for artificial breathing.

Efforts of Soviet doctors are directed toward working out methods of curing ... stomach ulcers and other stomach-intestinal diseases.

Soviet contributions to the study of the causes of hypertonic diseases are mentioned by Alexander Myasnikov, of the Academy of Medical Sciences, who credits the late Soviet scientists Georgi Land with "a great deal of research work" on those diseases. No further details are mentioned. (TASS, 23 June)

Aviation: The Soviet claim to primacy--has now been extended to include practically everything that flies. An article published in RED FLEET on the occasion of Air Force Day (TASS, 27 June) says that "there is hardly any sphere of aviation in which the Russian scientists and inventors failed to be the pioneers." Air Force General Kamanin is a bit more specific about the latest Soviet claim when he asserts in TRUD (TASS, 24 June) that:

the first aircraft, aviation motors, helicopters, multi-engined airships and flying boats were created in Russia.* Russian designers created the first jet aircraft.

Oceanography: The first round-the-world trip by Russians is the subject of a book by Nevsky just published by the House of Geographical Literature. That trip, the author claims, produced a "new" science, oceanography, which "was founded by Russian navigators."

*Russian version: Pervie samolety, aviatsionnye dvigateli, vertolety, mnogomotornye vozdukhnye korabli i letayushchie lodki byli sozdany v Rossii.

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Research: Speaking of the growth of labor productivity in the USSR and of the Soviet scientific approach to this problem. (18 June) Gorin said that "Comrade Stalin is firmly guiding our scientific and technical thought" Academician Grekov gave evidence of this claim in an address before the opening session of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR on 19 June. Grekov referred to the significance of Stalin's work (on linguistics) "on the revision of research in all the institutes of the Academy working in the sphere of human sciences," and listed the institutes of philosophy, linguistics, oriental studies and history and nature study as some of those affected.

THE LAW AND THE COURTS

An anonymous broadcast for political school students (first year training) (21 June), discussing Soviet jurisprudence, made an unusual reference to the Soviet intelligence service which, as a rule, is never even mentioned in the context of the law or the courts. "Soviet judges," said the lecturer, "are independent and subject only to law." He explains their independence by saying that:

No organ of Soviet administration, either local or supreme, has the right to give directives to the court on decisions to be taken.

The Soviet intelligence service is catching spies, saboteurs and counter-revolutionaries and bringing them to trial.

This concept of the Soviet intelligence bringing people to trial has been contradicted by K. P. Gorskhenin, Soviet Minister of Justice and, theoretically, also chief of the intelligence service. Referring to the history and evolution of the Soviet political police, beginning with the original Extraordinary Commission (Cheka), the Justice Minister ventured the following definition of that service:

At the end of 1918 the Cheka was reorganized from an organ of investigation into an organ that also resorted directly to extra-judicial measures of coercion, assuring swift and, of necessity, cruel repression of the enemies of the Soviet state.
(THIS IS RUSSIA UNCENSORED," Edmund Stevens, Didier Press, New York, 1950)

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